

year. Our deficit in vegetables and fruits reached \$2.5 billion last year.

These deficits come from a very simple fact: Our markets are open to foreign products; foreign markets are closed to ours. Too often the products that flood into this marketplace are products made by 12-year-olds working 12 hours a day being paid 12 cents an hour, and it is not fair trade.

Let me use Bangladesh as an example. The fourth largest producer of garments for the U.S. market is Bangladesh. Workers in Bangladesh get paid on average 1.6 cents for every baseball cap they sew, under contract to an Ivy League school. That same baseball cap for which a worker gets 1.6 cents to sew is sold on the campus of this particular Ivy League college for \$17.

Each year Americans buy over 900 million garments made in Bangladesh, and yet workers in Bangladesh still cannot make the 34 cents an hour they need as basic subsistence.

If workers in one of the poorest countries of the world cannot even get paid 34 cents an hour, how do U.S. workers and U.S. businesses compete against that kind of trade?

Some say these trade deals are a way of getting other nations to improve their labor and environmental standards, but the fact is, our trade negotiators do not think about that and do not do anything about that. If one needs evidence of that, take a look at the trade agreement that was just negotiated with Singapore, which is going to come to the Senate floor at some point soon for a vote.

This agreement has a provision that would allow massive transshipment of products through Singapore into this country from countries with abysmal labor and environmental records.

How would that work? Article 3.2 of the agreement says the products made in third countries will be treated as Singapore products as long as the products are on a list approved by U.S. trade officials, which includes electronics, semiconductors, computers, cell phones, photocopiers, medical instruments. This chart shows what it says in that Singapore free trade agreement.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace issued a paper saying in that Singapore agreement this provision could very well torpedo the entire agreement. This is what a former senior official at the Department of State on labor matters wrote about what has happened in Indonesia:

Government enforcement of child labor laws is weak or nonexistent.

There is a long-standing pattern of collusion between police and military personnel and employers, which usually takes the form of intimidation of workers by security personnel in civilian dress, or by youth gangs.

She quotes a State Department study which says:

Institutions required for a democratic system do not exist, or are at an early stage of development.

So we have a free trade agreement with Singapore. And what happens with that free trade agreement? What is going to happen is we will get products from Burma or Indonesia which go to Singapore and are transshipped into this country. As long as they are going on the product list, what we are going to see is transshipment into this country of products coming from areas with abysmal records with respect to child labor and workers' rights.

This Senate has decided it would like to fit itself out with a straightjacket by unwisely passing something called the fast track agreement. The President called it TPA, which was a euphemism for a fast-track agreement, I should say. Under fast track rules, trade deals come to the Congress for an up-or-down vote, and there will be no amendments offered under any circumstance. And this very flawed Singapore free trade agreement will come to the Senate under fast track rules.

The fact is, our trade negotiators don't care what happens after they negotiate a trade deal.

We did a bilateral trade agreement with China a couple of years ago, and we did it so that China could then get into the WTO. When they joined the WTO in November 2001, the Chinese agreed to significantly expand the amount of imported wheat that could come into China at relatively low tariffs. China agreed that it would set a tariff rate quota of imported wheat at 8½ million metric tons. That meant 8½ million metric tons could enter the market at low tariffs.

According to the CRS, the Congressional Research Service, the Chinese imports were less than 8 percent of that amount. In fact, the Chinese Agriculture Minister was reported in the South Asia Post saying: 8½ million metric tons does not really mean that is what we are going to bring into our country.

This is a country that has a \$103 billion trade surplus with us, that reaches a trade agreement with us saying they are going to buy some of your wheat but never really intends to. What do we do about it? Well, we say it does not matter so much. Nobody is going to do too much about it.

It is unforgivable that this goes on. In fact, a U.S. trade official in charge of agricultural trade with China recently said China has not lived up to its promise. That official said the United States would be justified in filing a World Trade Organization case against China. The same official said the evidence of unfair trade by the Chinese was "undeniable," and the Chinese themselves privately acknowledged they are cheating on agricultural trade.

This official said the administration is reluctant to take action against China because the Chinese might be offended. The official said the administration is worried that a WTO case would be seen as "in your face" so soon after China joined the WTO.

Well, what is in your face is what these trade officials are doing to farmers, to workers, and to businesses all around the country. It is not fair. In my judgment, we expect and demand that there be action to enforce trade agreements.

I believe my time is about up. I am going to speak at greater length about China trade in the coming days, but I did want to say today that this is an area that is desperately in need of attention by Congress and the administration.

And the Singapore trade agreement is a terrible agreement. We ought to pay some attention to that.

Finally, going back to where I started, this fiscal policy does not add up. Everyone in the country understands it, and I hope when we talk about the need to increase the Federal indebtedness by \$1 trillion this Senate will ask itself: Does this make any sense at all?

The major subject before us is more tax cuts when we have the largest deficits in history for the next 10 years and a requirement to increase the Federal debt limit by \$1 trillion.

I come from a really small town. We had a guy living there named Grampy. He knew everything about everybody and everything about everything. I always wondered what would Grampy think if you explained to Grampy where we are—deep in debt as far as you can see; a requirement to increase the debt limit by \$1 trillion; and the next big thing on the agenda is to cut your revenue, the benefit of which will go largely to the upper income people.

I think Grampy from my hometown would say: Are you nuts? Can't you add? This is not higher math. This does not add up for the country and will not produce one new job. It will produce more despair, more concern, and less economic growth.

Get your fundamentals right. Make things add up and put things back on the right track.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF DEBORAH L. COOK, OF OHIO, TO BE A UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The hour of 12:45 having arrived, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 34, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Deborah L. Cook, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.